THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Women employed in education sector

†2474. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of employment of women in the schools in rural and urban areas in the field of education;

(b) whether the said rate is low in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Education being a concurrent subject, school education and hence appointment of teachers and other employees in schools are primarily in the domain of the respective State Governments. As per the Selected Educational Statistics 2003-04 compiled by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (with reference date 30.9.2003), total number of women teachers in the country at different levels of schools is 2259916, which is 39.6% of total number of school teachers in the country. Information regarding employment rate of women in schools separately for rural and urban areas is not centrally maintained.

Identification of minority educational institutions

2475. SHRI A. VIJAYYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many applications for identification as "minority educational institutions";

(b) if so, the details including the number of such applications and number of applications disposed, professional college-wise, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise for the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the criteria adopted for identifying minority educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Observance of centenary year of Satyagraha

2476. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahatma Gandhi led his first Satyagraha in South Africa on 11th September, 1906 and this year is being observed as the centenary year of Satyagraha and the Ministry is planning to make the students of colleges and schools aware of this great event;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to observe an year long programme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Culture has informed that commemorative events are celebrated/observed primarily with the initiative/participation of Non-governmental organizations etc. so as to make them truly public events. Certain proposals have been received for commemoration of 100 years of Sathyagraha.

Enforcement of oaths and affidavits

2477. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that swearing of affidavit and administering oath for the purpose is taken too lightly in our country;

(b) whether Government propose to amend relevant laws, including laws related to elections to make swearing of affidavit a more serious matter